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VISION TRIP
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God's Rest for You

In six days God created. On the seventh, he rested. Interestingly, the last thing he created was humanity. Their first days began with everything completed. Their first day was God's rest day. I don't recall ever hearing again that God created something. It appears that once creation was made, God entered his rest. Adam and Eve were welcomed into it. What work they did there doesn't appear to be labour and toil. It is founded in rest, enjoyment, reflection. It is similar to what I do to replenish.

It wasn't until humanity deliberately chose to strive to be equal with God that we lost our ability to rest in him. From the first sin onward, work became labour. Life became difficult; filled with the unexpected and injustice.

Yet God's rest was not lost to us. It has similarities to his grace. Hebrews speaks of the Israelites leaving Egypt. Their disobedience resulted in their inability to enter the rest of God. Many have equated that with not being able to enter Canaan, the Promised Land. And that is also true. But the rest the author of Hebrews refers to is something different than the land of Canaan. (Heb.4:8ff) *"This new place of rest was not the land of Canaan, where Joshua led them. If it had been, God would not have spoken later about another day of rest."* con't pg.2

Heartland Alliance Church desired to find a community in Latin America with whom they could partner. Invited to act as a consultant, I introduced them to Santa Barbara, a squatter community on the outskirts of Lima, Peru



Scott Wiens - Overlooking potential partnership community



Pastor Al in community daycare



Community Children

Foundational partnership questions

1. Why partner at all?
2. What does a sustainable relationship include?
3. Can we do it on our own or should we partner with a local NGO at the field level?
4. How can our international efforts be integrated into what we are attempting to do in our own community?
5. What should we be careful not to do?

God's Rest for You con't from pg 1

"So, there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. For all who enter into God's rest will find rest from their labours, just as God rested after creating the world. Let us do our best to enter that place of rest. For anyone who disobeys God, as the people of Israel did, will fail." The invitation is to rest from my labour (not my work, but from my striving).

Some have viewed this as a description of Heaven, which it is, in part. But the writer of Hebrews makes it clear that this is not simply something that awaits us. It is something that is available today.

4:6ff *"So God's rest is there for people to enter. But those who formerly heard the Good News failed to enter because they disobeyed God. So God set another time for entering his place of rest, and that time is today."*

That rest is available today. Today I can cease from my labour. Today I can experience the rest of God, the releasing of striving, the toil of monotony, the stress of the load, and rest. Today I can be taken back to Eden, or ahead to the New Jerusalem and live fully. The rest is his. It isn't something I create, but it is something I must be willing to receive. v.10 *"For all who enter into God's rest will find rest from their labours, just as God rested after creating the world. Let us do our best to enter that place of rest"*

Jesus gave the same invitation. (Matthew 11:28-30)

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon

you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

The yoke is still there. Work has not been removed. Circumstances have not changed. The means of accomplishing the task has changed. The yoke now fits. When we pull in the harness it doesn't cut into us or chafe. The sensation may be similar to slipping into a comfortable pair of shoes after walking half an hour in a pair that cut into your heels and were working the skin raw.

We still have to walk, but each step isn't inflicting horrible pain that causes you to limp and shuffle along. It has become natural again.

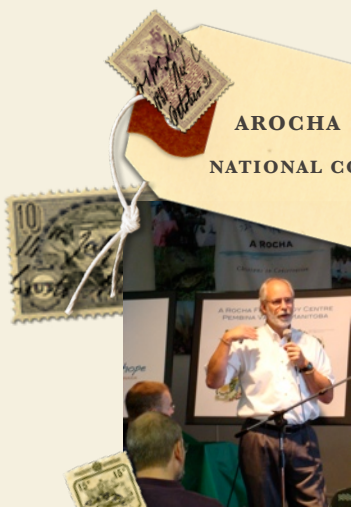
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY PERU STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



FHI Peru Staff Development Training



AROCHA CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Growing Healthy Cultures

LIES STUNT HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Truth the culture embraces.

LIE Lies a culture holds to be true

TRUTH PRODUCES GROWTH

THE MORE TRUTH APPLIED, THE MORE PRODUCTIVE LIFE BECOMES



Discussions with AROCHA delegates

We understand how to better impact our culture as we understand what each culture believes at its heart. The Great Commission in one sense is a command to narrow the gap between what our culture believes and what God demands.

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